

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, covering in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

## WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 1924.

WHOLE NO. 697.

## GOMPERS' REPLY TO WILSON SHATTERS DAVIS' LABOR RECORD

Washington, Aug. 16.—President Gompers and former Secretary of Labor William B. Wilson, now associated with the Democratic national committee, have exchanged letters on the labor record of John W. Davis. The labor-record claims of the Democratic standard bearer.

Mr. Wilson asked that the A. F. of L. executive council postpone its political decision until after the members of the council, or representative of Mr. Davis' notification ceremonies at Clarkburg. Mr. Gompers replied that this is utterly impossible and inconceivable.

"The suggestion could be made with equal propriety that we attend the acceptance ceremonies of President Coolidge, so as to prevent being charged with party partisanship," said President Gompers.

Mr. Wilson claimed that Mr. Davis stopped a general railroad strike when he, as solicitor general of the United States, made a decision from the United States supreme court upholding the Adamson eight-hour law.

"It was the machinery of the labor movement and not the supreme court and Mr. Davis which prevented the threatened strike," said President Gompers, who recalled that the mediation committee consisted of "President Willard of the B. & O. railroad, Secretary of the Interior Franklin Lane, you and myself."

Complete and detailed denial of every claim that Mr. Davis framed or assisted in the phrase "forced out" Saturday night, that on the following Monday the court would uphold the Adamson law.

"To this statement, President Gompers replied that it is 'quite strange' the leak has now been disclosed for the first time in 10 years."

"It is very strange that with this secret disclosed," President Gompers continued, "it may be necessary for the four members of our commission, the representatives of the four railroad brotherhoods and the railroad president to meet in session nearly all day Sunday and all of Sunday night, so that it was early dawn of Monday morning when the signatures were appended to the agreement by which the eight-hour day went into effect and the strike was averted."

Democratic party passed labor legislation, brought this reply from President Gompers: "The fact that we were a Republican congress, with Abraham Lincoln as president, that abolished human slavery in America, the reason we are employed in your letter will be followed, it would logically ensue that labor and the people generally must feel all time follow the Republican party—the party of Coolidge and Dawes—a party which has shown itself to be composed of and tied up with the sordid interests of the mighty few."

"That the Democratic party in its brief control of congress and with the martyred Wilson at its head—enacted into law a fair concept of human relations and human freedom can no more bind us forever to that organization than the Emancipation proclamation could bind us forever to the Republican party."

## Davis, Demmy Candidate, Wants President to Rule; Winks at Labor Injunction

Washington, Aug. 16.—In his acceptance speech at Clarkburg, Mr. Davis indicates that he favors congress being subordinated to the chief executive and that he does not oppose the labor injunction.

"This is a rejection of the well-understood principle that the government consists of three independent, co-ordinating branches. Mr. Davis lets it be understood he favors a president who will relate to the legislative branch of our government. His views harmonize with the blunt editorial expression of the Wall Street Journal, issue of June 10 last, that business 'proposes that the president shall govern the United States, and it is taking steps to make it effective.'"

"Mr. Davis' scant reference to the labor injunction is most significant. He said labor's right to organize and bargain collectively 'must not be impaired either by action or by any other device.'"

"By injunction judge has-never denied labor's right to organize or bargain collectively. This is even conceded by the stoutest defenders of Garryism. These unprincipled winks appear only when trade unionists would realize the purposes for which they unite."

Trade unionists will not permit the labor injunction to escape discussion by catchy phrases or wily terms. This process overthrows government by law and restores the status quo of all autocracies—judicial rule.

The labor injunction has undermined our judiciary. It has brought that branch of our government under popular suspicion and attack.

"The labor injunction is so fraught with menace to our institutions it can no longer be waved aside. Let it be charged with its true nature, let me quote from a recent address of the labor injunction by United States Senator Charles Pepper before the American Bar association:

"In the senate one quickly becomes aware of the existence of a sentiment of a sentiment on this subject. It is unchecked, might easily develop into a revolutionary sentiment. It is a sentiment which, if confined the courts to the sphere in which the creators of our constitutional system intended them to live and move and have their being."

## PLATFORMS COMPARED BY WORKERS

Organized labor supports the A. F. of L. executive council because, in the platform of these candidates have proffered a platform in which the economic issues of the day are met in a manner more nearly conforming to labor's proposals than any other platform.

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"The A. F. of L. executive council pledges a remedy for the injunction evil. Other pledges are: The right to organize and collectively to cease work; protection of free speech, free press and assembly; the right of labor to elect its own representatives; the supreme court's power to declare laws permanently unconstitutional; direct election of president and vice president and election of federal judges.

The platform recommends prompt ratification by the states of the child labor constitutional amendment and pledges subsequent federal child labor legislation.

### REPUBLICAN

The Republican platform ignores the injunction evil. It fails to deal with labor's right to organize or the right of the workers, even in self defense, collectively to cease work. That platform sustains the railroad labor board, with all that it means in the direction of government control and interference. It fails to recommend the ratification by the states of the child labor constitutional amendment.

### DEMOCRATIC

Labor's representative submission to the Democratic convention identical proposals to those submitted to the Republican convention. The Democratic platform pledges a remedy for the injunction evil. Other pledges are: The right to organize and collectively to cease work; protection of free speech, free press and assembly; the right of labor to elect its own representatives; the supreme court's power to declare laws permanently unconstitutional; direct election of president and vice president and election of federal judges.

The Republican convention nominated candidates unacceptable to labor. It does not meet the needs of labor. It is a candidate for vice president is one of the most outspoken enemies of labor and is the founder of an organization which is the lack of writing into law all political platform promises of the anti-union, anti-labor platform which it has adopted and supported the Democratic convention.

It is silent as to the injunction evil. It does not meet the needs of labor. It is a candidate for vice president is one of the most outspoken enemies of labor and is the founder of an organization which is the lack of writing into law all political platform promises of the anti-union, anti-labor platform which it has adopted and supported the Democratic convention.

## FEDERAL PENSION LAW PAYS \$600 ANNUALLY

Washington, Aug. 16.—There are approximately 14,000 persons on the annuity roll of the federal civil service retirement and disability fund. During the past year the annual cost of the fund has increased to a statement by C. S. Dewey, assistant secretary of the treasury. The average amount paid to those on the retired list is \$600 per annum. In the last fiscal year the fund increased \$9,000,000, or to \$34,000,000, and it is estimated that at the end of the 1925 fiscal year the fund will total more than \$42,000,000. When the annual cost of the fund is increased, the government's contribution of 2 1/2 per cent of their salary will be increased. This would be practically double that period because of increased wages.

## MEXICO'S NEW CHIEF CONFERS WITH LABOR

Atlantic City, Aug. 16.—The A. F. of L. executive council has received a letter from the President of Mexico, General Obregon, inviting the A. F. of L. to send a delegation to Mexico to confer with the Mexican labor union. The letter was received by the A. F. of L. executive council. At a luncheon in honor of the Mexican president, the A. F. of L. executive council was held. In a short address, delivered in Spanish, President Obregon expressed gratification because of the fraternal relations between the United States and his country. He said it is for me to embrace fraternally Mr. Gompers and to salute his honorable and excellent work. I understand that with the workers of the United States united, it will be very hard for the capitalist forces to oppress my people."

## WHEN COAL IS GONE

Toronto, Ontario, Aug. 16.—When coal and oil are exhausted, new forms of fuel will be obtained from common salt and water, according to Professor F. G. Donnan, president of a meeting of the British Association for the advancement of science held near Leeds. He said that the power of water turned into electricity and used to obtain chlorine and soda ash, which can be transported to industrial centers for fuel. Professor Donnan said that the power of water turned into electricity and used to obtain chlorine and soda ash, which can be transported to industrial centers for fuel.

## BETTER BRAKES URGED

Washington, Aug. 16.—Improvement in the operation and maintenance of air brakes for passenger and freight cars are necessary, because interstate commerce commission. The commission has urged that the interstate commerce commission. The commission has urged that the interstate commerce commission. The commission has urged that the interstate commerce commission.

## COMMITTEE STIFFENED TO AID NO-PARTY PLAN

Washington, Aug. 16.—The A. F. of L. executive council has stiffened its opposition to the no-party plan. The committee has stiffened its opposition to the no-party plan. The committee has stiffened its opposition to the no-party plan. The committee has stiffened its opposition to the no-party plan.

## CANT SUE UNIONS

St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 16.—If the higher courts sustain Circuit Judge Kilgore's ruling in a damage suit against the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, it will be impossible to sue unions for damages. The higher courts sustain Circuit Judge Kilgore's ruling in a damage suit against the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, it will be impossible to sue unions for damages.

## SIMPLE DISTRIBUTION IS URGED BY HOOVER

Washington, Aug. 16.—Secretary Hoover has declared war on the wasteful system of distribution in vogue in this country. He says it is "the most serious menace to our national health and prosperity." He says it is "the most serious menace to our national health and prosperity." He says it is "the most serious menace to our national health and prosperity."

## VALUABLE FIND IN POLYMER

Washington, Aug. 16.—A valuable find in polymer has been made by a team of scientists. The find is a valuable find in polymer. The find is a valuable find in polymer. The find is a valuable find in polymer.

## Preventable Waste Costs Billions; Workers Urged to 'Produce More'

Washington, Aug. 16.—At every opportunity labor is advised to produce more. The latest excuse for this advice is a report on the length of European work days, issued by the Federation of British Industries. Commenting on this report, one labor adviser said that the European work day is longer than the American work day. Commenting on this report, one labor adviser said that the European work day is longer than the American work day.

## State Pension Act Held Illegal; Against Constitution, Says Court

Harrisburg, Pa., Aug. 16.—Attorney General Woodruff announced that he will apply to the state supreme court from Judge Hargrett's decision that the Pennsylvania old age pension law of 1923 is unconstitutional. Judge Hargrett ruled that the law violates this section of the constitution: "No appropriations, except for pensions or gratuities for military services, shall be made for charitable, educational or benevolent purposes to any individual or community nor to any denomination, corporation or association."

"If appropriations can be made to a commission the purpose of which is to distribute benevolence to aged indigent persons, it is accomplishing exactly what the constitution says is to be unable to provide for the aged. It is, in effect, an appropriation for benevolent purposes to certain persons."

"If we are right in our conclusion that the prohibition for benevolence to any person is as broad as the language plainly indicates, we are unable to see how a state can constitutionally maintain a system of benevolence through a state department or agency for the care of the aged."

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## TERRIFIED COOLIES WON'T FIGHT FLAMES

San Francisco, Aug. 16.—The coolie crew on the steamship President Lincoln received additional orders that when vessel was threatened with destruction by fire, the steamship is owned by the United States shipping board and is operated by the Pacific Mail steamship company.

## HIGHER WAGES PAID UNDER SHARP HOURS

Washington, Aug. 16.—In a survey of women in New Jersey in 1923, the United States women's bureau, it is stated that higher wages were paid where shorter hours prevailed.

## VALUABLE FIND IN POLYMER

Washington, Aug. 16.—A valuable find in polymer has been made by a team of scientists. The find is a valuable find in polymer. The find is a valuable find in polymer. The find is a valuable find in polymer.

## FOUL FISH CANNERIES

Long Beach, Cal., Aug. 16.—Unpleasant conditions were found by the federal health department in fish canneries under shakedown. The federal health department found that the conditions were unsanitary and that the workers were exposed to health hazards.

## OIL PROBERS BROKE

Washington, Aug. 16.—The \$100,000 congressional oil production fund has been exhausted and the special provisions for the fund have been exhausted. The fund was established to provide for the production of oil in the United States.

## RETAIL FOOD PRICES UP

Washington, Aug. 16.—The retail cost of food in 14 cities in the United States has risen for the first time in 18 months. The increase is due to a variety of factors, including higher costs of raw materials and increased transportation charges.

## TYPOS RAISE WAGES; HEAVY STRIKE COSTS

Toronto, Ontario, Aug. 16.—In the annual convention of the Typographical Union, President Howard announced that the earnings of all members increased the past year approximately half a million dollars, or 1 per cent.

## EMPLOYMENT DROPS

Albany, N. Y., Aug. 16.—July factory employment in this state continued to decline for the fourth month of the year. The decline is attributed to a variety of factors, including higher costs of raw materials and increased transportation charges.

## SHOW WORKERS SALK

Kansas City, Mo., Aug. 16.—Wage contracts with improved conditions have been signed by several unions in the city. The unions are the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, the International Union of Bricklayers and Masons, and the International Union of Painters and Decorative Paperhangers.

## TRIN CLAYTON FILMS

Washington, Aug. 16.—Clayton films are being produced by the United States government. The films are being produced for the purpose of educating the public on various subjects, including the importance of conservation and the benefits of a strong government.

## IMPORT STRIKES

Seattle, Aug. 16.—In organizing a living wage movement by creating a cab drivers' union, the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America has been successful in securing the support of the public. The union has been successful in securing the support of the public.

## PLUMBERS TO CONVENT

Atlantic City, Aug. 16.—The Plumbers and Pipe Fitters of the United States are holding a convention in Atlantic City. The convention is being held for the purpose of discussing the issues facing the industry and of electing new officers to the union.